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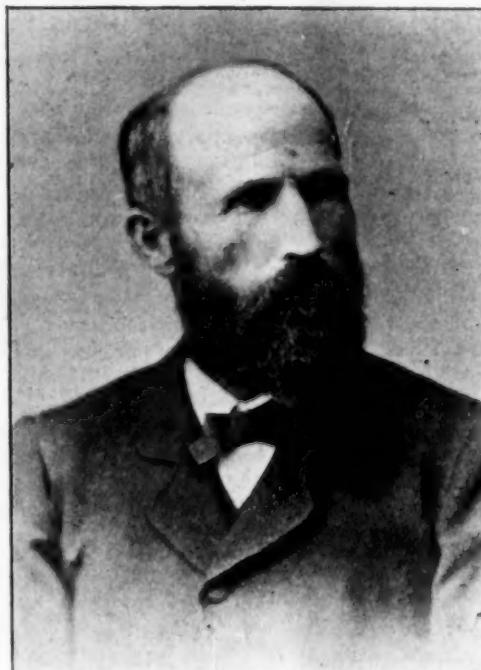
118 Michigan St., - CHICAGO, ILL.



Honey-Prices—Some "Fool Capers" Described

BY EDWIN BEVINS.

Just look at the honey-prices in late issues of the bee-papers, Mr. Bee-Keeper, and say how you like them. Looks as if the man who will spend time and money to build up an apiary for the production of honey to sell at these prices might be a fool. To add to my disgust and discouragement with the business, there comes a man calling himself "New



Edwin Bevins.

York," asking bee-keepers to go into the work of lengthening the tongues of bees.

Now it seems to me that if the head end of the bee is to be lengthened, the tail end will be correspondingly lengthened,

and I submit it to any sensible bee-keeper if that end is not long enough already! Mr. Doolittle expresses the opinion that this lengthening is hardly possible with the rank and file of bee-keepers, but leaves us to infer that it may be done by the Captains, and Colonels, and Brigadier Generals, and Generals, of the industry. Therefore, I move that somebody get out an injunction to restrain them from undertaking the job. Notwithstanding the apparent folly of trying to produce honey at present prices, and the possibility that the tall end of the bee may be lengthened, and perhaps strengthened, it is quite likely that if I live 20 years longer I shall write a book at the end of that time narrating my experience with bees during these 20 years, and entitle the book "The Mysteries and Miseries of Bee-Keeping." More likely, however, I will call it "A Fool's Errand," and explain its authorship as Judge Tourgee explained the authorship of his book, by saying that it was written by one of the fools.

You see, once a bee-keeper always a bee-keeper. Or, in other words, once a bee-crank or bee-fool, if you please, always a bee crank or fool. There is no getting out of this work till one is let out of it by death or let into a lunatic asylum. This is due to those things a bee-keeper will not sell for cash even if he can, you know. And this is a good place to remark that while there are a few things of this sort connected with the pursuit, I have found this season, and other seasons, a good many things that I would gladly sell at a discount of 99 per cent., and some others on which I would make a discount of a full 100 per cent., and throw in something besides for the sake of getting them off my hands. This last remark might not have been written if the bees in my yard were not so largely made up of a crop between blacks and Italians.

I want to ask the pardon of the American Bee Journal readers for ever having written a word about bees and bee-keeping. The man who gets a few colonies of bees and reads all, or a good many of, the bee-books and bee-papers, and works along through several years of light honey-flow, or no flow at all, may imagine that he knows something about these things. Then let him find himself some June morning with half a hundred to a hundred colonies on his hands, and the bees filling up his hives and supers with bewildering rapidity, and the conceit will soon be taken out of him. He begins to realize that he does not know much of anything, and that what he does know is hard to make available at just the right time and in just the right place.

Therefore, readers of the American Bee Journal, I bid you good-bye for 20 years.....After all, I guess that, before I get out of sight and hearing, I had better "holler back" and tell you about some of my "fool capers" during this season of 1897.

This has been a first rate season to note the unreasonable and unnecessary and unexpected things that bees will do when prosperity gives them the opportunity to do as they please. Did any of you ever notice, or rather ever fail to notice, the persistency with which bees will monkey around a hole that would admit them to honey if it were only just as big again? But this is a digression. I started to tell you about some fool capers.

STARTING THE ROBBER-BEES.

First, and worst perhaps, of these fool capers was leaving some honey exposed in the early part of the season where the bees could have access to it. Since then some robber-bees have followed almost everywhere, and apparently took note of everything I have done. If I put on a bee-escape in the early part of the day, they hunt for holes and crevices, and have nearly cleaned out three or four supers for me.

The big extracting hives have telescope covers. These covers are made a little larger than the supers. Once when I put a bee-escape under one of these supers, the bees crawled

up between the sides of the super and the sides of the cover and cleaned out the 10 frames which must have contained at least 30 pounds of honey.

HIVING BEES ON EMPTY FRAMES.

Next in heinousness was the hiving of a large swarm of bees on frames 11 inches deep with only starters of foundation. This was done last season, but the consequences were not made apparent till this season. The colony was strong last spring, and I was expecting much from it, but for some reason it would not begin to work in the supers. I gave the hive an examination, and the combs were all broken down but one. I prepared another hive and placed it on the old stand, and then placed the old hive with these broken combs on top of it. There was a good deal of brood in the old combs, and when it was hatched I removed the upper hive and gave the bees below a queen after ascertaining that there was no brood in the lower frames. The loss in consequence of my failure to fill those frames last season with sheets of wired foundation I estimate at 100 pounds of honey, judging by what other colonies of like strength have done.

GETTING RID OF A LAYING-WORKER.

One of my oldest colonies in a big 10-frame hive, which seemed to be all right in the spring, did not get to work when the other bees did, and on looking for the cause I found no worker-brood in the hive but lots of drone-brood scattered all over the combs. Laying worker! Then I took the hive and set it over that hive which contained the bees that would not work on old foundation, but put combs between the division-board and one side of the hive. I put a newspaper between the two hives, tearing a small hole in the paper. After a few days I found the bees all living together peaceably, and a big hole in the newspaper. Then I set the upper hive in the place of the lower one, making sure that the queen was in the upper hive, and carried the lower hive to a new stand. All the field-bees returned to the old stand, but lots of young bees staid, and there was a good deal of brood in the old combs, and the frames that I had given early in the season. At the first opportunity I stuck a queen-cell onto those old combs, and now all goes merry as a marriage bell in that hive.

AN EXPERIENCE IN FORMING NUCLEI.

On June 10 I made two 2-frame nuclei of bees and brood in anticipation of receiving queens to give them in the course of three or four days. But floods in Massachusetts and freezes in New York delayed the arrival of the queens, and I didn't know what to do. A colony standing close to one of these nuclei swarmed the day the nuclei were made, and the swarm got away because I lingered 15 minutes too long in the garden that morning. I got into the bee-yard just in time to see the last bees of the cluster letting go of their hold on a limb of a peach tree. I could not tell at the time from which hive the swarm had issued, but by observing carefully I found out that day or the next. I paid no more attention to the colony or the nuclei till June 21, when the colony swarmed again. Then I went in search of queen-cells, and found a frame having two with queens just ready to emerge. One did emerge and dropt to the ground, and I pickt her up and threw her into the hive standing close by that containing the nucleus. In due time I lookt in and saw a circular patch of worker-brood on one of the combs. The other cell I gave to the other nucleus, and on looking for worker-brood I found the two combs pretty well covered with drone-brood. Another case of laying worker. Then I took one frame of this drone-brood and put it in place of a frame containing eggs and larvae in another hive, and gave the eggs and larvæ to the nucleus, and now all goes well with it.

SOME SWARMING EXPERIENCES.

Here are a few swarming experiences of the present season:

One morning I hived a very small after-swarm, and about the time it got settled another swarm of moderate size came and entered the same hive. Then I put the hive with the two swarms on top of a queenless colony and left the bees to settle things to suit themselves. I reckon there was a royal battle, and also reckon that the majority of the bees cared no more about what was going on than the majority of the people of England did when the fight waxt hot between York and Lancaster. Now things are going on normally in that once queenless hive.

One day I hived a swarm, and after remaining a little while the bees began to swarm out. Then I closed the entrance and placed the hive on top of another queenless colony. A late examination shows the colony to be queenless yet. So I reckon the swarm was queenless.

Again, I have not had the number of natural swarms that I expected, and I have lost heavily on account of runaway swarms. If swarms would stay after they are hived it would not be so bad, but several of my best ones have struck out soon after hiving, and others after they have staled and workt three or four days. These hived swarms might perhaps have been made to stay if I had known enough to give them a frame of unsealed brood. We have a bee-keeper's word that they will stay under such circumstances, but I did not always think of it till it was too late.

I lost a few swarms by not being on hand when they came out. I am beginning to shake my head a good deal over this natural-swarming business; "commencing to divide," and that queen-clipping device, are not remote possibilities.

Having observed the reluctance with which bees work through bee-zinc, I believe I have no great use for queen-traps and queen-excluders.

BIG HIVES GIVE BEST RESULTS.

I think I shall have to chronicle the fact that my bees in 10-frame hives, whether of standard or deeper depth, have given me best results in honey this season. No swarming of any account from these hives, but the work of storing honey went steadily forward while there was any to store. Many colonies in the 8 frame hives have done well, and, on the other hand, too many of them have done nothing, or next to nothing. When I could catch a colony swarming, and hive the swarm on starters of foundation, and place the swarm on the old stand, I have got considerable surplus from the swarms. But in these days of low prices and uncertain honey-flows I will not practice what is called "contraction." There seems to be lots more monkeying with bees in order to secure the last ounce of surplus to place upon an overstockt market than results will justify.

PRODUCE ONLY EXTRACTED HONEY.

Somehow, rightfully or wrongfully, extracted honey is a discredited thing, selling in the great markets down with cane sugar, when it ought to be more sought after, and sell for nearly or quite as good a price as comb honey. I am going to chronicle my opinion that extracted honey is the only kind of honey that ought to be produced. I am aware that from this opinion there will be a numerous and loud dissent, but nevertheless this will remain my opinion. I am not going to argue the question with anybody, but will just call attention to one point in its favor, viz.: It will keep indefinitely.

But where am I at? I will tell you about some more foolishness.

GIVING TOO MUCH STORAGE-ROOM.

One of the things which I did, which may have bad consequences, was to give too much room for the storage of surplus honey. It did not seem to be too much at the time, but storing having ceast, or nearly so, I am likely to have a great lot of unfinisht sections. I am reducing the number of supers to one on a hive as fast as possible, but it looks now as if these

will not be filled, and so there is small chance that the sections I am now taking off will get anything more put into them this season. If this condition of things is general, the season may turn out to be an unprofitable one after all the promise of middle and later June.

SMOKING BEES AT THE HIVE-ENTRANCE.

The matter I am about to mention is somewhat foreign to anything I have been saying, but I cannot refrain from asking what is this we hear from Doolittle? He says that he always smokes the bees a little at the entrance when putting on and taking off supers. Does that have to be done in a yard full of golden beauties? I do not smoke at the entrance once in a hundred times, and hardly ever get stung when putting on and taking off supers.

And now, my bee-keeping friends—if I have any, and, if I may presume to call you such—having "hollered back" all you care to hear, and more, perhaps, I will bid you again good-bye for 20 years.

Decatur Co., Iowa, July 26.



Will of the Workers—Summer Management.

BY L. A. ASPINWALL.

Altho it is generally understood that the economy of the hive is under the control of the workers, still, not a few believe that such matters in which the queen performs a part or function, she may exert a positive guiding influence: notably, such instances as swarming, leaving the hive for mating, and, altho to a less degree, in her individual function—egg-laying. Seemingly the possessor of a sole function should also possess the right to exercise or use it. In considering the matter of egg-laying we have a greater opportunity to ascertain many facts pertaining to the executive or governing power of the workers than in that of swarming, or mating of queens. We can begin the season with a small brood-nest and carefully note all actions until swarming takes place.

During the breeding season doubtless many have noticed the queen surrounded by a few workers, apparently paying her tokens of respect, and much has been written in confirmation of such theories. However, an examination of the colony previous to or after the breeding season will reveal a fact that the workers pay no more attention to the queen than to each other. Still, if deprived of her presence, they display evident signs of the loss. This, however, simply shows her important relation to the colony, which is recognized by the course of action taken by the bees.

When the breeding season approaches, the nurse-bees supply the queen with an increase amount of food, stimulating the ovaries to action and bringing about the laying of eggs. This stimulative feeding is increase until the height of the breeding season is reached, at which time her size and brilliancy are much greater than at any other period of the year. A few days previous to swarming this supply of food is withheld, and with the issuing of the swarm we find her much reduced in size, also greatly inferior as regards color. So this retinue surrounding the egg-layer is not doing obeisance, but utilizing their powers of digestion to the furtherance of brood-rearing, and are servants, not only to the queen, but the colony.

I sometimes regard the queen as the greater servant, comparing her to the honey-ant, which is only a living receptacle filled by the worker ants until the abdomen becomes distended to an enormous size. Such is the relation of the queen to the colony—she subserves the will of the workers, and in so doing promotes the general welfare.

The drones are also brought into existence by the same will, which, when the requirements of the colony are such as to render them useless, not only withhold their accustomed food, but drive them from the hive to perish.

If this executive or governing power of the workers is displayed in the general economy of the hive—comb-building, breeding and honey-gathering—involving an immense detail of work, and the display of various functions, we may logically conclude that it is exercised in swarming and mating of queens. As instance, I once had a prime or first swarm issue two or three hours after removing the old queen, the preparations (finisht and unfinisht queen-cells) for swarming being complete. That instance proved beyond a doubt (to my mind) that the queen simply unites with and is subject to the will of the workers in swarming as in egg-laying.

As regards the mating of queens, I have abundant proof that the workers govern in this matter also. I have a great many times witness young queens as they left for mating, and in numerous instances the workers prest or urged the queen to take flight. Notwithstanding this urgent persuasion, they often manifest great consternation during her absence. This is but natural when we consider that the perpetuity of the colony depends upon her safe return. Queens sometimes leave and return several times before accomplishing their object. Upon several such occasions I have seen the workers prevent their entering the hive and by force compel them to take flight again. I take this opportunity to remark that the queen is exceedingly timid when leaving for the purpose of mating and most carefully marks the location of her abode.

SMOKERS AND SMOKER FUEL.

I well recall the days of primitive smokers; Quinby's original being a plain tin tube about five-eights of an inch in diameter, five or six inches long, and provided with a plug at each end. One was sufficiently long to serve as a mouth-piece and removable for filling and cleaning the tube. Through each was bored a small hole for the passage of air and smoke. Tobacco was used as fuel.

Mr. Quinby's addition of a bellows certainly markt a new era and obviated the intense strain caused by constant blowing through the mouth-piece to keep it ignited. I now use the Bingham smoker and regard it perfect in construction and working. While I have no special fuel to recommend, that which produces the largest and most satisfactory volume of smoke is from spongy or partially decayed wood (notably white birch), but it also produces the greatest accumulation of carbon or sooty condensation. To remove the accumulation, a little gasoline poured into the barrel and cone will aid in burning it out. Separate them (take off the cover), using two or three teaspoonfuls for each, and carefully ignite, using a long stick. A single application will soften it and two or three will burn it to a crisp. I usually scrape out the accumulation after being softened, which lessens the amount to be burned. Care should be exercised not to burn the bellows. It is needless, perhaps, to add that this method of cleaning should only be undertaken when all fire and heat are absent.

The prevention of condensation causing the accumulation is extremely desirable, and far outweighs any method of removal. Thus far I have obtained a reasonable degree of success, and believe we shall yet have a complete preventive. My present plan is to use a little beeswax within the cone. By reason of the heat it spreads rapidly over the entire inner surface and to a great extent prevents adhesion of the carbon particles. And yet I have not tried paraffine wax, but believe it will answer, altho it melts at a lower temperature and possibly will need replenishing more frequently. It certainly is less expensive.

BUSY BEES NOT SO IRRITABLE.

All bee-keepers of experience notice a gradual change in the disposition of bees as the season advances, when they become more irascible. The temper of all creatures largely depends upon whether they are occupied or idle. During the honey-yield irritability manifests itself much less than in times of failure. While our bees are occupied we are also moving more frequently among them. At this season the fielders are rapidly wearing out. Their wings are reduced in many instances to half their original size; and, in consequence, they become fatigued, alighting upon the ground at various distances from the hives. In walking among them the casual observer will fail to see these veteran toilers, and in consequence many will be trodden upon. A few crush bees, whether under a super or upon the ground, will call others in defense. I am exceedingly careful in this respect, and avoid as much as possible the treading upon or injuring a bee, altho it may have outlived its usefulness. As stated in a previous article, I use no bee-vell; neither do I possess one, and I attribute the amiability of bees very much to humane methods in their management.

IMPORTANCE OF PROPOLIS.

Altho much prejudice exists against propolis as a coating of the hive, making it impervious to air and consequent dampness, we ought not to lose sight of its importance. Certainly nature provided the proper material to carpet the home of the bee. Aside from its use as a cement or gum, it serves as a foothold, and without its use I believe comb honey would be somewhat darker through compulsory travel upon it. The bee can walk and cling to propolis or wax more easily than upon board surfaces. However, we measure its importance from our standpoint, and altho perfectly adapted to the requirements of the bee, still we feel as tho the frames are less movable, and our fingers and clothing become soiled by it.

REMOVING PROPOLIS FROM CLOTHING.

I append this item more especially to furnish the reader a simple plan for removing it from clothing. Having used it for three years I cannot recommend it too highly as completely removing every trace from any fabric. It is simply to rub the soiled portion with a small piece of ice, when in less than a half minute it is rendered brittle, passing imperceptibly away.—Bee-Keepers' Review.



Are Black Bees Capable of Improvement?

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

QUES.—"Having read your articles in the American Bee Journal for years, I have learned to look upon you as candid in your opinions and expressions, so I wish you would tell us through the columns of the above-named paper if you do not think the effect of breeding, on black bees, would have been just as markt as on the Italian, had the same untiring energy been spent in their improvement? In other words, would not black queens now be larger, finer, and more prolific, had such a course been pursued?"

ANS.—The above came to me a few days ago, and as a few words on the subject of the improvement of our bees may not be amiss, I will, with the editor's permission, give a few thoughts on the same.

Probably there would have been some improvement in the black or German bee, had the apiarists of the United States taken hold of the matter with the same will in breeding which they have shown in breeding the Italian bee up to its present standard. But I do not think that the effect would have been as markt on the German bee as it has on the Italian, for the reason that the black or German bee is a fixt race or variety, while the Italian bee is nothing more than a thoroughbred, or hybrid, in my opinion. Any race of animals which is fixt and constant in its breeding, cannot be improved nearly so easily as can one which is liable to sport. The same holds good in the vegetable kingdom, all of our best varieties of vegetables being obtained from "sports."

Breed black queens as carefully as you may, they will not vary a particle as to color, while the Italian queens vary from a queen nearly if not quite as dark as any black queen, to one whose abdomen is of an orange yellow throughout its whole length; hence those who have bred for beauty as well as other qualities have been able to succeed in producing queens that will give all yellow queens every time, and whose worker progeny are nearly as yellow as were the best of queens a score of years ago. Those who have paid no attention to color-breeding have seen their bees go from those with three yellow bands back to bees with scarcely a bit of yellow on them; and yet we often hear people talking about "pure" Italian bees. If Italian bees are a pure race they are given to sporting beyond any other known *pure* thing. It seems to me it is impossible for these bees to be anything else than a thoroughbred. This inclination to sport as to color gave the assurance that they would sport as to quality as well, so we have breeders who have workt for a very industrious bee, and have seen industry come to the front with them.

Others have workt for wintering qualities, gentleness in handling, white capping of section honey, etc., and still others for a combining of all the good qualities which go to make the perfect bee in every respect, seeing this work so prosper that, to-day, take it all in all, the Italian bee, as bred in the United States, undoubtedly stands at the head of all the bees known to the world. This is evidenced by calls coming for them from all parts of the world; and could they be shipt the same as can non-perishable articles, there would not be a country on the face of the earth, where bees could exist, where they would not be found.

Now, the same thing which keeps the black bees from sporting as to color, hinders them from sporting in other directions desired by the bee-keeper, so that, to a certain ex-

tent, they are nearly if not quite identically the same as they were when they first left the hands of the Creator. There is a certain amount of improvement by the "survival of the fittest," and yet such improvement has not advanced these bees as much during all the centuries which have past as has the hand of man the Italians during the past 35 years; nor has the hand of man ever made as much improvement on them during all the long past as has been made with the Italians during the last 10 years.

There is one thing which I wish to notice in the correspondent's communication before closing. He wishes to know whether the black queens would not be "larger, finer, and more prolific," had the right course of breeding been pursued. All of my experience goes to prove than an exceedingly large queen is rarely if ever as good as one of medium size; and if it is meant that a large queen is "finer" than one not so large, I must differ from the one asking the question.

A very large queen seems to be less active than a medium-sized queen, and so far as my experience goes they cannot be depended upon to bring the colony up to the greatest strength at the pleasure of the apiarist so well as can queens of lesser size. In fact, a very small queen will often give much better results than these large ones.

Not long ago I received about the smallest queen I ever saw from a party in the South who wrote, "This queen is very small, but seems to be prolific, so we send her to you. If she does not prove good we will send another." Well, that queen filled her hive with brood, and kept it filled much better than any of the other queens the party sent me, and gave splendid results, thus proving that large size in a queen was not of so much advantage as many suppose.

The old saying, that "You cannot tell by the looks of a toad how far it can jump," applies equally as well to a queen as to other things. The queen that is capable of producing the desired number of worker-bees in just the right time for honey-harvest, and these workers have the desired energy in securing the harvest (all minor qualities being equal) is the queen which will give the best results, be she large or small; but, as a rule, the real moneyed results will generally go with the queen of medium size, for she is the most apt to give the bees as above.

Onondago Co., N. Y.



The Bees of Borneo and the East.

BY G. D. HAVILAND.

The genus *Apis*, the honey-comb builders, may be conveniently divided into three parts,—the small bees, the big bees, and the medium-sized bees.

1.—The small bees, whose workers are less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length; their nest is exposed, attacht to a twig from six to 15 feet above the ground, and consists of a single small comb, which the bees, when frightened, temporarily forsake. The queen is at once distinguishable by the comparatively enormous size of the thorax; the drones, too, are very different from the drones of other bees, the dense velvet down on the thorax being wanting, and the abdomen narrower and more curved, but the most curious are the large blunt lobes or pegs on the tarsal segments of the posterior legs, arising from its anterior upper margin and passing downwards, no rudiment or trace of which can be seen in ordinary drones. These bees are found only in tropical Asia and the islands of the Malay Archipelago; owing to their small size they are of no use to bee-keepers or to bee-hunters. Only one species is known—*Apis florea*.

2.—The big bees, whose workers are more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length; these, too, have their nest exposed, and composed of only a single comb, but this is a large one and generally placed on inaccessible cliffs or large unclimbable trees, tho occasionally in more accessible places. Owing to the position of their nests and the size of their stings these bees can successfully drive off all enemies by day. They, too, are found only in tropical Asia and the islands of the Malay Archipelago. Owing to the quantity of wax in their large comb, it is highly valued by natives, but these bees are not domesticated. *Apis dorsata* is the common, well-known species, found as far

eastward as the Isle of Timore. *Apis zonata* is a little known species, found only, I think, in the Island of Celebes.

3.—The medium-sized bees, whose workers are more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch and less than $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch in length; their nests are always sheltered in hives, in hollow trees, in roofs of houses, or some such places; they build several parallel combs, and consists of species, varieties and races, scattered over the whole of the habitable old world.

Apis indica, the smallest and one of the most distinct, is found in tropical Asia and the Islands of the Malay Archipelago.

Apis unicolor, small, dark in color, and distinct from others, is found in Madagascar.

From Africa comes *Apis adansonii*; from Egypt, *Apis fasciata*; from Europe, *Apis mellifica*; from China, *Apis sinensis*. Almost every country has a special variety or race; sometimes these, when brought together, inter-breed, but sometimes two can be found in the same country which appear to keep distant.

Up this Sarawak River are four species of *Apis*, viz:

1.—*APIS FLOREA*.—I saw this bee in Ceylon, it seemed rare in the hill country, but very common near Anuraadhapura, where, on their nests being disturbed, the bees fled without stinging, so that Cinghalese boys have no difficulty in eating their honey, and Mr. Davison tells me that the same is the case in the south of India; but here, altho the bees readily leave their combs, they will sting as well and more effectually than their size would lead one to expect. I have not yet caught a drone here as the wet season is on, and there are no drones now. The workers of these bees vary greatly in the color of their abdomen, the most common thing is for the two basal segments of the abdomen to be colored, and the others black, but in the same nest will be found some without a bit of color in the abdomen, and some in which nearly all the segments of the abdomen are colored. Has Mr. Benton been guilty of this atrocity, or will some amateur detective find another culprit in this matter?

2.—*APIS DORSATA*.—I have not noticed any difference between this bee and the one like it which I saw in Ceylon, except that in Ceylon it was quite absent from the flat country round Anuraadhapura, but here is common both in the low country and in the hills. The workers usually have the two basal segments of the abdomen colored, the other segments black, except for a gray band quite at their base; but some workers have the third segment colored, and some have the whole upper surface of the abdomen colored. I saw quite a number of these last on a nest I examined through a telescope, but could see no drones, I suppose because it is the wet season, yet swarms of these bees are frequently seen flying overhead.

3.—*APIS INDICA*.—The commonest bee here, length of the worker $\frac{7}{16}$ of an inch; these bees do not vary much in the color of the abdomen, in the majority the scutellum is colored, but in many it is not. At this time of year there are no drones. The bees do not store much honey, they have no winter to go through, and many enemies, so they prefer breeding and swarming. They are very quiet bees, quieter than two colonies of *indica* which I examined in Ceylon; they can be easily manipulated without smoke, but they readily take to the wing—the queen as well as the workers—so that it is impossible to drive them. Four times I have tried transferring to bar-framed hive, and once the simple removal of the queen, in every case they forsook the hive and all their brood a few days after, but the wet season was on, and the quantity of their brood not large. Amongst the enemies of these bees is a species of *Trigona*, yellow and black, and small in size, this, finding its way through the cracks in a Dyak hive, establishes itself in the upper regions of the comb, builds a wall between itself and the owner of the honey, behind which it eats the honey, leaving the midrib of the comb quite bare, and in places destroying this too. I opened two hives attackt by this small bee, and in neither case did I find any of their brood, but the Dyaks thought they sometimes had brood in the hives, but say that a few months after the *Trigona* comes, the *Apis* generally forsakes its hive.

4.—*APIS FLAVA*.—The proper name of this bee I do not know, so for the present I will use the above name; the workers are at once recognized by their bright yellow color; their head is yellow, their thorax densely clothed with long yellow hairs, and the ground color of the thorax is yellow, their length is $\frac{9}{16}$ of an inch, slightly larger, I think, than an English bee. The drones are not very yellow, the queen not at all so—she is but little larger than a queen of *indica*. I have examined three nests of these bees, in one were drones hatching and hatcht, the drone-cells, the larger than the worker-cells, and furnisht with the convex capping, were mixt irregularly with the worker-cells, not together on a special portion of comb. The colonies are small, and not quite so good-tempered

as those of *Apis indica*, but with the help of smoke are not difficult to deal with. Whilst manipulating I have noticed *Apis flava* to rob from *Apis indica*; and I have seen *Apis indica* trying to rob from *Apis flava*, but I have not found *Apis dorsata*, or any wasp out here, trying to rob, tho' *Apis dorsata* frequently comes to drink close to my colonies of *Apis indica*.

Malays, Chinese, Klings and Europeans here all give bees a wide berth. Dyaks alone keep them. Their knowledge of their habits is much like that of the old Romans; they talk of the Rajah, tho' probably few have seen her. The drones they call badorken, but have no idea that they are the males, or that the rajah lays eggs.

A nest of *dorsata* the Dyaks highly value. They eat the brood, but sell the wax, and the honey, too, if they can, to Malays, who trade up the river. They take the nests by building ladders up the tree or cliff. Ascending these on a moonless night, they hold a torch beneath the nest and drive off the bewildered bees before cutting down the comb. Next day the bees leave the place and try their fortunes elsewhere. There is a right of ownership of nests on favorite trees or cliffs. Colonies of *Apis indica* they keep in hives made of bark, or hollow logs of wood, narrow, but two to three feet long, with the entrance in the middle suspended lengthwise from the floors of their houses, which are raised many feet from the ground on poles. They take the honey and brood at night, driving the bees out of their hives by means of smoke. Next day the bees leave the place. *Apis flava* they seldom put in hives, for they say it gives less honey and brood than *Apis indica*. *Apis florea* I believe they usually avoid.

The Malays call *Apis florea* "Peniangat," a word which is applied to small social wasps also, and is their name for the sting of an insect. The Dyak name is "Titi," which is also used for small solitary bees. *Apis dorsata* is called by Malays "Lanye;" by Dyaks, "Bunyee." Dyaks cannot pronounce "L" except at the end of a word, so when speaking Malay they say "Ranyee." *Apis indica* is called by Dyaks "Newaan," or often up other rivers, "Ranewaan." The proper Malay name is "Lebah," but I have not heard it used here, the Malays commonly using the Dyak name. *Apis flava* is distinguished by Dyaks as "Newaan pscheer" (?), or the "yellow Newaan."—British Bee Journal.

Sarawak, January.



Influence of Pollen upon Size, Form, Color and Flavor of Fruits.

BY PROF. J. C. WHITTEN.

(Read before the Missouri State Horticultural Society.)

Before considering the subject of pollination, it is necessary to get clearly in mind the relation and arrangement of the different parts of the flower.

The ordinary complete flower is composed of calyx, corolla, stamens, and pistils, in the order named. The apple flower is a good representative. The calyx is the green, outer cup. It is the cover of the unopened bud and expands as the flower opens, into five parts, or sepals. Just within the calyx is the corolla, consisting of five pink petals. This is the most conspicuous and ornamental part of the flower. Just within the corolla are the essential or reproductive organs. They consist of about twenty stamens, and a five-parted pistil. The stamens are slender filaments, surmounted each by a little sack containing the pollen. These are the male organs. The pistil is the central, female organ of the flower. It consists of a five-celled ovary, bearing the undeveloped seeds, and five thread-like styles, arising from it, and terminating each in a fleshy surface, called the stigma. Some plants do not produce both stamens and pistils in the same flower. In the Indian corn the pistils are the silk at the ear, while the stamens are borne in the tassels at the top of the plant. Our pine trees bear two classes of little cones, or flowers, in spring. One kind bears the stamen, and is shed off after the pollen has been produced. The other kind bears the pistils, and, after being acted upon by the pollen of the male cones, develops into the large cone from which we secure the seed. Other plants, like the box-elder, soft maple, persimmon and cottonwood bear the different sexes upon separate individuals. This is also the case with many varieties of strawberries. The ornamental corolla is wanting in many flowers, so also may be the calyx. Each species, however, must always produce stamens and pistils, either in the same, or in different flowers. These, being the reproductive organs of the plant, are as essential to the production of fruit and seeds, as are the two sexes essential to reproduction in the animal kingdom.

The existence of sex, in plants, has long been known. Vague hints of it occur even in the writings of Greek and Ro-

man authors. It was not until about two-hundred years ago, however, that its existence became clearly defined. Even then, this view was much disputed, and it was not until the collection of proofs of the sexuality of plants, given by Linnaeus, in 1735, that the question became a settled one.

When it first became known that pollination in plants was a necessity for the production of seed, very vague ideas prevailed as to how the pollen was carried from the stamens to the pistils. This, at first, excited little more thought than the mere idea that the pollen simply fell on the pistils. When it was considered that in some cases, the stamens and pistils are borne on separate plants a new question arose, as to how the pollen was transferred over such great distances. It was found that pistillate plants, growing at a distance from any stamen-bearing plants of the same kind, frequently produced seed. The agency by which the pollen was transferred in such cases, was, at first, ascribed to the wind. A little later it was suggested that, since some flowers contain honey, and are visited by bees, the insects might be of some use in pollination. It was not thought, however, that this affected cross-pollination, the idea being that they simply shook the pollen from the stamens to the pistil, in an individual flower.

The very important part, which insects take in the cross-pollination of plants, was not much known until about one-hundred years ago. At this time Sprengel was led to begin a great number of observations, which showed not only that insects carry pollen from flower to flower, but that the bright colors, scents, and singular forms of flowers serve the useful purpose of guiding insects to their secreted honey. His keen observations are of exceeding interest. He noticed the tiny hairs beneath which honey lies hid, in a little wild geranium, and found, that, while these hairs in no way hinder bees from taking the honey, they effectually turned away the rain drops from the nectaries. From this he reached the conclusion that the honey was secreted for the bees and that the rain was kept out that they might have the nectar pure and unspoilt. Noting the little yellow ring in the throat of the forget-me-not, he conceived the idea that this might guide the insects on their way to the honey. Upon further investigation he found that the colored dots, lines and other figures surrounding or pointing toward the honey, actually do serve as honey-guides, or path-finders for the insects.

Thus perceiving that the insect is guided to the nectar, once it has settled on the flower, he went still farther, and reached the wise conclusion that the bright-colored corolla itself is to guide the insect, from a distance to the flower. Thus it is that the beauty of our peach, plum and apple blossoms serves, not only to gladden the eye, but also to attract these insect pollen-bearers. Up to this time it was supposed that honey was secreted by flowers, simply to furnish a food for insects, and no one even supposed that the insects returned an equivalent service to the flower. Sprengel, however, observed that certain varieties of Iris are incapable of being pollinated and of producing seed, if insects are excluded from them. This led to his further discovery that a great many flowers depend wholly upon insects for transferring the pollen.

In all of Sprengel's work, it is perhaps remarkable that he failed to learn the most important lesson which his years of patient study and observation might have taught. While he was well aware of the fact that insects frequently carry pollen from flower to flower, he failed to learn that cross-pollination is the most important result of insect visits. This great truth remained to be first hinted at by Andrew Knight. After experimenting in self-fertilization and cross-fertilization in the pea, and other plants, Knight, in 1799, laid down the law that in no plant does self-fertilization continue for an unlimited number of generations. This theory attracted very little attention until nearly fifty years ago when Darwin came forward with his exhaustive experiments and studies, from which he interpreted the natural law that "no organic being fertilizes itself for a perpetuity of generations, but a cross with another individual is occasionally—perhaps at very long intervals—indispensable." Darwin showed that in all the higher forms of animals the sexes are separate, in order that two different sources of blood, of relationship, may be combined in the off-spring. He also showed what we now so generally admit, that in-breeding diminishes strength and productiveness, while a cross with a different strain increases both.

[Concluded next week.]

The McEvoy Foul Brood Treatment is given in Dr. Howard's pamphlet on "Foul Brood; Its Natural History and Rational Treatment." It is the latest publication on the subject, and should be in the hands of every bee-keeper. Price, 25 cents; or clubbed with the Bee Journal for one year —both for \$1.10.



Questions and Answers

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

Swarming—Queen “Fainting.”

About a week ago I had a swarm come out very early in the morning, and the queen did not come out. The wind was commencing to blow hard, and they went right back. The wind blew hard all day—sort of a Nebraska zephyr—and as it went down about seven in the evening, they tried it again with the same result. While they were on a tree I opened the hive and found the queen (her wing was clipt), and waited for them to try it again the next morning, which they did about seven; and they surprised me by coming out with a young queen. She came out with the first handful of bees; I caught her and hung the cage on a bush right in front of the hive, and they never look at her, but immediately stopt coming out, and those that were out went back. Then I divided them, but could not find the old queen. I carefully cut out all queen-cells, and used them in starting nuclei.

In four days I examined them, and found no signs of a laying-queen in either hive, and no queen-cells started. I gave them laying queens, and now everything is lovely.

1. Why did they kill their queen?

2. Why did they not start queen-cells?

During those four days they stored honey to “beat the band.”

3. Twice in clipping queens this season, the queen has fainted, or “played possum,” once before and once after the wing was clipt. I placed their cage upon the frames, and they seemed to “come to” and be all right inside of an hour. In each case she had not been laying more than a day or two, and while they were lying apparently dead, there would be a slight twitching of the abdomen, and eggs would appear. I handled them very carefully in the clipping device. There happened to be a worker in with them each time. How do you account for this singular performance.

NEBRASKA.

ANSWERS.—1. When a prime swarm issues, if the colony is strong and circumstances favorable a second swarm may be expected in a week or ten days later. If the queen cannot accompany the swarm, the bees will continue the attempt to swarm, sometimes every day, sometimes not so often, but when a young queen emerges then the “old lady” is disposed of, and the bees go with the one that has flying powers. You will probably find that what your bees did will be the regular program in all cases with clipt queens, if the bees are left to themselves.

2. “Bees do nothing invariably,” and perhaps without any reason they sometimes fail to start queen-cells when you think they should. In the present case there may have been no need to start cells for young queens may have been present. Four days from the time of emerging, these young queens would not yet be laying, but the bees would work with vigor, and having no larvae to feed would store with unusual rapidity. It is possible that the queens you gave to the two colonies were retained, but it is probable that they were killed and the young queens commenced to lay eight or ten days after the last swarming.

3. From what others say, it seems this “fainting” of the queen is not a very unusual occurrence, altho I never saw a case of the kind in the hundreds of queens I have clipt. Possibly the manner in which the queen is held at the time of clipping may have something to do with the case. I have never seen but one explanation suggested, and I don’t know whether that is the right one. It is that the queen in her

struggles gets her foot caught in the terminal opening of the abdomen, and being held fast in that position either does not or cannot make any further struggle. When the foot is released by relaxation, then she is all right again.

The Buffalo Convention Notice has been sent us by Secretary Mason, and reads as follows:

STA. B. TOLEDO, Ohio, July 5, 1897.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you please say in the next issue of the American Bee Journal that the next annual convention of the United States Bee-Keepers’ Union will be held in the Main Hall of Caton’s Business College, corner of Main and Huron Streets, in Buffalo, N. Y., commencing at 10 o’clock, a.m., of Aug. 24 next, and closing on the afternoon of the 26th?

Papers are to be read by W. Z. Hutchinson, R. F. Holtermann, E. Whitcomb, Hon. R. L. Taylor, Mrs. L. Harrison, R. C. Atkin, G. M. Doolittle, Dr. J. P. H. Brown, Hon. Eugene Secor, Geo. W. Brodbeck, M. B. Holmes, A. E. Manum, E. Kretschmer and P. H. Elwood; to which will be added the President’s Address, and perhaps the General Manager and the Secretary may have something of interest to present.

The programs are now printed and in the hands of the Secretary. There are six bee-keepers’ songs, with music, in the program, and abundance of time is allotted to the discussion of all papers, and for the asking and answering of questions.

Any one not a member of the Union can have a program sent them by mail on receipt of 5 cents in postage stamps by the Secretary.

Several of our well known bee-keepers, such as A. I. Root, Dr. Miller, S. T. Pettit and others who are not on the program, will be present to help make the convention interesting and instructive.

It is probable that suggestions will be made at this convention in the line of so amending the constitution of the Union as to remove its objectionable features and add such other provisions as may seem desirable, and suggestions in this line by those not able to be at the convention can be sent to the Secretary, to be brought before it. Some suggestions have already been received by the Secretary, and others have been made in the bee-papers.

Those going to the convention should buy round-trip tickets to the Grand Army of the Republic encampment (not to the United States Bee-Keepers’ convention), which meets at Buffalo during the last week of August. The G. A. R. have secured a rate of one cent a mile each way in the territory of the Central Passenger Committee, which is included by Toronto, Canada, thence on a line to Port Huron, Mich., all of the southern peninsula of Michigan; Chicago, Peoria and Quincy, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Louisville, Ky., and Pittsburgh, Pa. The Western Passenger Association and the Trunk Line Association make a rate of one fare for the round-trip in their territory to places in the Central Passenger Association, from which points the fare will be one cent a mile each way, but tickets must be purchased to Buffalo from the starting point. Enquire of your ticket or station agent in all territory outside of the above-named for rates and the time the tickets are good for, for I have been unable to learn the rates in such territory, but presume it will be the same as that of the Western Passenger and the Trunk Line Association; but be sure to inquire of your ticket agent as above suggested.

In the Central Passenger and Trunk Line territory tickets will be good going on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd, and if vised at Buffalo will be good, returning, for 30 days.

Mr. O. L. Hershiser, of Buffalo, has charge of arrangements at Buffalo, and will attend to the matter of hotel rates. He writes: “I purpose obtaining accommodations in private families for all bee-keepers who prefer such to hotels.” Members of the Union can learn in regard to hotel rates by applying to the Secretary at the place of meeting. If known in time, hotel rates will be given in the bee-periodicals.

A. B. MASON, Sec.

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A New Binder for holding a year’s numbers of the American Bee Journal, we propose to mail, postpaid, to every subscriber who sends us 20 cents. It is called “The Wood Binder,” is patented, and is an entirely new and very simple arrangement. Full printed directions accompany each Binder. Every reader should get it, and preserve the copies of the Bee Journal as fast as they are received. They are invaluable for reference, and at the low price of the Binder you can afford to get it yearly.



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United States Bee-Keepers' Union.

Organized to advance the pursuit of Apiculture; to promote the interests of bee-keepers; to protect its members; to prevent the adulteration of honey; and to prosecute the dishonest honey-commission men.

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EUGENE SECOR, Forest City, Iowa.

Next Annual Meeting at Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 24—26, 1897.

Vol. XXXVII. CHICAGO, ILL., AUG. 12, 1897. No. 32.

Editorial Comments.

Buffalo, Aug. 24, 25 and 26—the place and date. Will you be there?

The Season's Experience will now be a fine topic to write on for many a bee-keeper. And we shall be glad to report in these columns anything that may prove helpful to others. Each can help the other by telling how he managed his apiary for the best results. Others have helped you by their writings, now why not you return the favor, or pass it on to those who are now the learners or beginners?

A Special Car of Bee-Keepers.—Lately several of our friends have asked us when and by what route we expect to go to Buffalo, to attend the bee-keepers' convention. We had intended going a few days before the meeting, and stopping off to see our near and dear relatives in northeastern Ohio, but we have been compelled to change that intention, and now expect to leave Chicago on the Nickel Plate railroad at 3:05 p.m., Monday, Aug. 23, arriving at Buffalo at 8 o'clock the next morning, in time for the opening of the convention at 10 a.m., as per the printed program.

Since deciding as above, we have wondered if it were not possible for the bee-keepers around Chicago, and those from the West who will pass through here on their way to Buffalo, to make up a special car on the Nickel Plate, and go on together from here. We find that we can have a sleeping car for such purpose at \$10.50 for the round trip per passenger, and the berth \$1.50 extra, tickets with special return privilege of extension to Sept. 20. But there need to be at least

25 persons to go thus together in order to have the special car; however, 30 or 35 can comfortably get into the car. Of course, ladies will be welcome to go thus as well as the gentlemen. Bring your wives and daughters. It will be a grand trip.

But shall we all go in that special car? What do those bee-keepers who expect to go say about it? We'd all have a fine trip together—from 3:05 p.m. Monday till 8 o'clock the next day.

Now, let all who will join in this, write us at least by Friday, Aug. 20, so that we can fully complete the arrangements. We will attend to getting your tickets and sleeping-car berths, if you will send us the necessary \$12 to do it with, and have everything ready when you get here Monday. Come on, friends.

Honey-Tea.—Mention is made in German papers of an old man who attributes his hearty vigor in extreme old age largely to the use of what he calls honey-tea. Many will find upon trial that this same drink will be for them wholesome and refreshing. Take a teacup of hot water, put into it extracted honey in quantity to suit the taste, and there is your honey-tea all ready to sip. If extracted honey is not at hand, the liquid part drained from comb honey may be used, or even a piece cut from comb honey, only in the latter case the wax as well as the honey is present. If children must have a hot drink this will be much better for them than a decoction of coffee or tea. So says an exchange, and wisely, too.

The Illinois Pure-Food Laws.—Mr. Herman F. Moore, a young Illinois attorney and honey-dealer, copied the pure-food laws in force in this State, and forwarded them for publication in Gleanings. They are as follows:

CRIMINAL CODE, § 471: Be it enacted, etc., that no person shall mix, color, stain, or powder, or order or permit any other person in his or her employ to mix, color, or stain, or powder any article of food with any ingredient or material, so as to render the article injurious to health, or deprecate the value thereof, with intent that the same may be sold; and no person shall sell or offer for sale any such article so mixt, colored, stained, or powdered.

§ 473. MIXT ARTICLES TO BE MARKT.

No person shall mix, color, stain, or powder any article of food, drink, or medicine with any other ingredient or material, whether injurious to health or not, for the purpose of gain or profit, or sell or offer for sale, or order or permit any other person to sell or offer for sale any article so mixt, colored, stained, or powdered, unless the same be so manufactured, used, or sold, or offered for sale under its true and appropriate name, and notice that the same is mixt or impure is markt, printed, or stamp upon each package, roll, parcel, or vessel containing the same, so as to be and remain at all times readily visible; or unless the person purchasing the same is fully informed by the seller of the true name and ingredients (if other than such as are known by the common name thereof) of such article of food, drink, or medicine, at the time of making sale thereof or offering to sell the same.

§ 475. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF.

Any person convicted of violating any provisions of any of the foregoing sections of this act shall, for the first offense, be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$200. For the second offense he shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$200, or confined in the county jail not less than one month nor more than six months, or both, at the discretion of the court; and for the third and all subsequent offenses he shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000, and imprisoned in the penitentiary not less than one year nor more than five years.

It was Mr. C. P. Dadant's suggestion that the New Union first begin the enforcement of present laws, and see if much of the honey-adulteration could not be stopped without working for more stringent laws. It seems to us that with such a law as the above on the Illinois statute books, the New Union ought to be able to do something along the line indicated. Of course, it takes money to do such work, and there ought to be

at least \$500 in the treasury before any attempt is made to prosecute adulterators. Yes, \$1,000 would be better.

It seems to us that if bee-keepers want to see the fight begun, they should first roll their dollars into the treasury so that General Manager Secor could feel safe in going ahead. If in the next 30 days 500 bee-keepers should join the New Union, we believe they would very soon have the satisfaction of knowing that a few honey adulterators had been put where they won't repeat the offense.

Just as soon as the New Union is ready to begin the fight, we will procure samples of the stuff sold for "pure honey" here in Chicago, and turn them over for analysis as we may be directed.

But let's *first* raise that fund for prosecution. Send in your \$1.00 membership fee now—to us if you prefer—and we will turn it over to the proper officer of the New Union. Then perhaps immediately after the Buffalo convention the war can be commenced. We are ready to furnish our share of the ammunition that shall put a quietus on the mixers of honey with glucose or other adulterant. What say you, reader? Will you join hands with us in this matter?

The Langstroth Monument Fund is again brought up in Gleanings for Aug. 1. Mr. A. I. Root suggests that each bee-keeper send in at least 10 cents—but more if possible. We will agree to receive any amounts that may be forwarded to us, acknowledge them in the Bee Journal, and then forward for the monument.

As this has been a fairly good honey season for most bee-keepers, why not send 5 cents for each colony owned, spring count? If that were done, there would soon be ample funds for erecting a fine monument to mark the spot where lies all that was mortal of the loved and loving Langstroth.

Mr. Root also suggests that an inscription should be prepared in advance, so that when the time comes to use it, it will be ready. Here is what he says about this:

And it occurs to me just now that some of our able men, friends of our benefactor, should meet together and suggest a suitable inscription. I have not consulted any one in regard to the matter, but I should like to have Dr. Miller and Manager Secor, and anybody else whom they might choose, get something appropriate for the tombstone. The whole wide world knows more or less of Langstroth; and people who visit the cemetery at Dayton, Ohio, will look up the place and will read with interest the inscription. When I was down East it gave me a rare thrill to be shown the burying-place of Noah Webster, the father of our old "elementary spelling-book." I cannot remember just how expensive a stone it was; but I was not only delighted to see it, but to tell the friends after I got home that I stood by the tomb of this, that, and the other great men whose memories we love and revere.

The Weekly Budget.

MR. WM. McEVoy AND WIFE, of Ontario, Canada, expect to be at the Buffalo convention. While they will represent the Canadian bee-keepers most admirably, still we hope to see a whole lot of the bee-folks from over there. Mr. McEvoy has a good many very warm friends in the United States; and you can safely take our word for it that Mrs. McEvoy deserves just as many as her worthy husband has. We hope Mr. McEvoy will not forget to bring J. B. Hall along with the rest of the crowd.

GLEANINGS IN BEE-CULTURE has just been "changing its dress"—comes out in brand new type of bewitching "face" and "form." A new \$2,500 printing press has also been added, upon which to reel off 2,200 impressions per hour. All of which bespeaks prosperity. Well, we're not so hard-hearted that we can't rejoice with those who do rejoice. The

deserved success of others will not discourage us. Some day it will be our turn to take another advance step. We believe in making progress, but always want to be sure we can retain a position before we assume it. Of course, our excellent contemporary can easily do that, and very truly says: "While Gleanings does not claim to be the best bee-journal in the world, it has a right to claim that it 'keeps up with the procession,' both in subject-matter and in letter-press work."

EDITOR R. F. HOLTERMANN, of the Canadian Bee Journal, writes us that on account of the exhibitions it will be inconvenient for him to attend the Buffalo meeting, but he thinks he has arranged it all right, and now expects to be there. He reports that several others in his locality also expect to be present. Good. We hope Canadian bee-keepers will be sure to get there, even if they have to swim the Lake over and back each day! Yes, there'll no doubt be a good showing of our cousins over the line. It looks now as if it were going to be a monster bee-convention. Mr. Hershiser will have his hands full to care for us all. But he'll do it all right. Just let everybody go, and help show to the world that American bee-keepers can do even better than those of Germany in the convention line.

EDITOR W. Z. HUTCHINSON, of the Bee-Keepers' Review, wrote us a kindly letter July 30, from which we take these sentences:

I have been, and am yet, very busy. I have had quite a local supply trade this year, which has enabled me to close out about all of the sections and foundation I had on hand. I am thinking of going to the fairs again this fall, and that requires thought and work to get ready.

Yes, the wife and daughter are improving, and I am enjoying myself more than I have before in months.

All will be glad to know that Mrs. Hutchinson and daughter are improving, and that Mr. H. himself is getting back to his normal condition. He expects to be at the Buffalo convention, of course.

REV. EMERSON T. ABBOTT, editor of the Busy Bee, writing us July 29, said:

MY DEAR BRO. YORK:—I will try to do what you wish at the Buffalo meeting. I have just gotten out of bed again. I got over-heated unloading a car about two weeks ago, and it came very nearly doing me up. I am gaining all the time now, and hope to be in trim before the time to go to Buffalo. While I was in bed one of my sisters, who lived at home with father about three blocks from us, died, so that Mrs. Abbott had her hands and heart more than full. I was not able to get out and see her before she was laid away, which seemed very hard when I was so near to them.

We felt pretty certain Mr. Abbott would comply with the request to respond to the address of welcome to be delivered, at the bee-convention by the Mayor of Buffalo.

MRS. MATE WILLIAMS, of Minnesota, we learn from the last number of Farm, Stock and Home, has been put in charge of its apianer department. She is virtually the honored successor of the late B. Taylor, whose thoroughly practical articles were of such interest to readers of bee-papers during his latter years. Mrs. Williams is introduced as the new conductor of their bee-department, by the publishers, in these happy words:

"Mrs. Mate Williams is a lady whose recent frequent communications have shown that what she knows of bee-keeping has been learned in the school of experience, supplemented by close observation, studies of the best authorities accessible, and an interest born of love for the avocation. It is very gratifying to put a woman in charge of this department, for bee-keeping seems to be particularly suited to the feminine head, heart and hands. It is hoped that the new bee-editor will awaken an increased interest in her art in the breast of thousands of her sister readers of Farm, Stock and Home, and that they in turn will do what they can to strengthen her in the work she has undertaken, by suggestions, counsel, and, if necessary, an occasional exercise of charity for some real or fancied error of judgment."

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Rational Bee-Keeping, by Dr. John Dzierzon.—This is a translation of his latest German book on bee-culture. It has 350 pages; bound in paper covers, \$1.00.

Bienen-Kultur, by Thomas G. Newman.—This is a German translation of the principal portion of the book called BEES OF HONEY. 16-page pamphlet. Price, 40 cents.

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Commercial Calculator, by C. Ropp.—A ready Calculator, Business Arithmetic and Account-Book combined in one. Every farmer and business man should have it. No. 1, bound in water proof leatherette, calf finish. Price, 40 cts. No. 2 in fine artificial leather, with pocket, siliicate slate, and account-book. Price, 60 cts.

Green's Four Books, by Chas. A. Green.—Devoted to, 1st, How We Made the Old Farm Pay; 2nd, Peach Culture; 3rd, How to Propagate Fruit-Plants, Vines and Trees; 4th, General Fruit Instructor. Nearly 120 pages. Fully illustrated. 25 cts.

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Bee-Escapes and Their Use.

Query 57.—Mr. Simmins' book condemns the use of bee-escapes, saying that putting them in position alarms the bees and makes them puncture holes in the cappings. 1. Have you found the same objection? 2. What other objection, if any, have you found?—NEBR.

R. L. Taylor—1. No. 2. No serious one.

Mrs. L. Harrison—I've had no experience.

J. M. Hamaugh—I have never used them.

E. France—We have no use for bee-escapes.

P. H. Elwood—My name is "Thomas" just here.

Chas. Dadant & Son—No. We like them very much.

J. E. Pond—I have never used them, so can give no opinion.

Jas. A. Stone—1. No, No. 2. None—but all things in their favor.

Dr. J. P. H. Brown—O well, that is only a Johnny Bull whimsicality.

Eugene Secor—1. No. 2. I have found no objection to escapes. They are all right.

Rev. M. Mahin—Not having any experience with bee-escapes, I can give no opinion.

Prof. A. J. Cook—I have found no objection to their use, and regard them a great aid.

A. F. Brown—I have used bee-escapes largely. If properly put on I have no trouble with holes punctured in cappings.

G. M. Doolittle—1. No, not to the same extent usually given by any other way of ridding the surplus honey of bees. 2. None.

Dr. A. B. Mason—1. No. 2. I have found no objection to their use, but great benefit and saving of time and labor by using them.

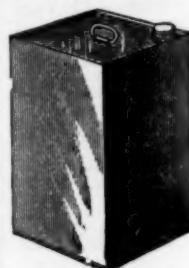
Dr. C. C. Miller—1. I think not. 2. The principal objection is, they work too slow. Where thieves abound they might be unsafe to leave on over night.

W. G. Larrabee—I have never found this or any other objection. I think they are a great help in taking off honey, especially at the end of the harvest when bees are liable to rob.

Emerson T. Abbott—1. No. 2. None. It seems to me folly to try to produce comb honey without the use of bee-escapes. Just as well try to farm without a harrow, using in its stead a bunch of brush to drag over the land.

C. H. Dibbern—Mr. Simmins is surely "away off" in this instance. I have removed thousands of pounds by means of bee-escapes, and have noticed particularly that puncturing the combs was much less than by any other method I have ever tried.

G. W. Demaree—in the honey season proper, the bee-escape works all right. After the honey-flow has just closed, and after there are no unsealed honey in



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scattering cells, the escape does not work so well. Use good judgment in its use, and you will find it a useful device in the apiary. Every useful device to save labor must be used intelligently.

H. D. Cutting—I never would think of producing comb honey without a good bee-escape, Simmins or no Simmins. If you cannot put a bee-escape under a super without the bees doing damage to the comb, you are a bungler, or are using a hive that should be discarded.

J. A. Green—There is no such objection. In fact, their use prevents just this thing, which is one of the reasons why they are valuable. There are some objections to their use, but the advantages gained are so great that they are hardly worth considering.

General Items.

Bees Doing First-Rate.

Bees in western Connecticut are doing first-rate this season. There is more white clover than there has been in ten years altogether. H. H. KNAPP.

Fairfield Co., Conn., July 26.

Honey Crop an Entire Failure.

The honey crop of Minnesota this year so far is an entire failure. I have about 200 colonies but not one pound of surplus honey so far. Caterpillars did it all. F. GENT.

Wright Co., Minn., July 31.

Thinks He Did Well.

The honey season closed with July 15, but I did real well, at least I think I did, for I got 1225 pounds of nice white honey from 29 colonies, and increase to 51 by natural swarming, and put all second swarms back.

L. A. HAMMOND.

Washington Co., Md. Aug. 3.

Clover Yielded Well.

White Clover yielded well during July. Bees are booming at present on second crop of red clover, and there is considerable white clover still in bloom. Basswood did not yield any this season—only about one out of five trees bloomed at all.

F. L. MURRAY.

Lafayette Co., Wis., Aug. 2.

A Year of Plenty for Bees.

I am happy to report a year of plenty for the bees in this section. We have had so many off years that I did not expect anything out of the ordinary, but the bees seemed to know better than their keeper when to look for a honey flow, for they commenced to swarm and after-swarm, and the prime swarms would cast swarms until I was heartily sick of swarming. I did not want increase, so I have run them back and doubled up till every hive in the yard, supers and all, is brimful of bees. I am master of them at present, but these strong colonies—90 in number—might make it quite interesting for me yet.

I have been successful with the method or plan of uniting swarms in two hive-bodies for a day or two, and then

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drive them into one and pile on the supers. I hive after-swarms in a box on the parent colony, and shake them out the next day. It beats queen-cell cutting, two to one, for the swarming mania must be satisfied in some way, or they will sulk during the harvest.

Sad experience of that Eunm Dee, in his honey-take and wide-frame mishap. No doubt the good Doctor will have a full bee-space under his chin-covering the next time, and his lamp trimmed ready for emergencies. Perhaps you might persuade him, Mr. York, to get a modern hive, with supers and bee-escape.

A. B. BAIRD.

Fayette Co., Pa., July 26.

Bees Booming.

My bees are booming. I have taken 3800 pounds of white clover honey.

G. F. DANIELS.

Will Co., Ill., Aug. 2.

Good Prospect for Fall Crop.

I have a fine lot of extracted white clover honey. Bees are still doing pretty well, and I think the prospect for a fall crop is good.

J. W. SANDERS.

Marshall Co., Iowa, Aug. 2.

White Clover Nearly a Failure.

White honey is nearly a failure in this (Tompkins) county this year; too wet. Basswood was two weeks late, and it has rained for three weeks nearly every day —5 inches of water.

I shall be in Buffalo if it is possible. The convention comes in a very bad time. Buckwheat bloom will be in its height then.

W. L. COGGSHALL.

Tompkins Co., N. Y., July 30.

Honey Crop Cut Short.

The continued dry weather during the first half of July, has cut our crop of honey very short—none to speak of. The linden bloom lasted only two or three days, tho the bloom was good; but two or three days of hot winds dried it up. Bees were in fine condition to gather a large crop. Just what the fall harvest is going to be we are unable to tell at this date. We got a little white clover honey, and that is all, and but a few new swarms.

J. M. YOUNG.

Cass Co., Nebr., July 23.

A Report from West Virginia.

I commenced this season with 25 colonies, all black, but May was so cold and wet they dwindled all through the month, and did not build up to do much good till late in June, and during May and until June 20 we had such sudden cold winds; the sun would shine and the bees would fly out, when up would come a cloud with cold wind and rain, and thereby chill and cause a loss, perhaps half of the field-bees. About June 25 it turned warm, and still rained, and is still raining, so the bees cannot get out to the field half of the day, so our honey crop will be very short. Our bees did not begin to swarm till July 8—the latest I ever knew bees to swarm. I let 5 colonies swarm, then I stopped it.

I have gotten 100 one-pound sections harvested to date (July 22), and it is

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For all the **Good, Pure Yellow Beeswax** delivered to our office till further notice, we will pay 24 cents per pound, CASH; or 27 cents for whatever part is exchanged for the Bee Journal, Honey, Books or Seed, that we offer. If you want **cash, promptly**, for your Beeswax, send it on at once. Impure wax not taken at any price. Address as follows, very plainly,

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J. M. Jenkins, Wetumpka, Ala.

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30 miles northwest of Chicago, in 9-frame Langstroth hives. Bees in good condition. Only a few colonies. Too warm to ship long distance. Prices—\$5.00 per colony; 5 colonies, at \$1.75 each; or 10 colonies at \$4.50 each.

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very fine honey, tho quite red and very thick and sweet. I take it to be clover honey. I think I will get one super of 28 one-pound sections filled by each colony, spring count.

I would be glad if some one would give an article in the American Bee Journal on color, taste and gravity of honey, of a few of the leading honey-plants.

Long live the "Old Reliable," as it is a welcome visitor every week. I could not do very well without it.

IRA SHOCKEY.
Randolph Co., W. Va., July 21.

He Makes It a Big Success.

I made a trip with 100 sections of comb honey one day last week, and received \$25 in cash for the 100. This was just fun for me and my noble horse. We will make another trip this week. I had a pretty good crop this year—28 colonies in the spring, and now have 49 to go into winter. Yes, you always send the Bee Journal right along, paid or not paid; when I begin to sell honey or exhibit bees at a fair, it reminds me that the Journal pays itself. Neighbors and others wonder so much how in this world I manage to produce such a nice, large amount of comb honey, or even have bees on exhibition at a fair. Yes, and then when I pronounce or show the American Bee Journal, and say, "This is my guide," they look at me as tho they doubted it. E. B. KAUFFMAN.

Lancaster Co., Pa., July 26.

Kerosine a Bee-Sting Remedy.

From time to time I see the question asked in the American Bee Journal about the best remedy for avoiding swelling from bee-stings. I will give a simple treatment, which I have found to be all right.

Having some 60 colonies I have had to work quite a little amongst the bees, and whenever I was stung my hands and arms would swell and be painful and irritate for 3 or 4 days. Having heard that kerosine was good for mosquito bites, I thought I would try it for bee-stings, and I have found it to overcome the swelling and pain. This is how I proceed before working on my hives:

I roll up my shirt sleeves, take the kerosine can and rub my hands and arms well with the oil. I then slip a pair of old stockings with the feet cut off (which I keep for the purpose) over my arms, and go to work, and tho I may get stung, I find there is no after swelling nor irritation. May be some of our fellow bee-keepers, whose skin is rather tender, may find this remedy a good one.

J. W. DENYER.
Middlesex Co., N. J.

Poor Season in Minnesota.

In the Bee Journal July 29, under "Editorial Comments," it says that marketing a large honey crop will be the principal work of a good many bee-keepers during the next six months. But I tell you, Mr. Editor, if a change doesn't take place soon, the bee-keepers in Minnesota won't be troubled much in marketing their honey. The bees along in the forepart of June had to be fed or they would have died. The latter part of June and the forepart of July they did very well—stored honey in the brood-

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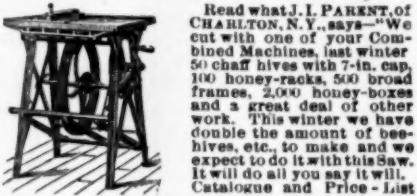
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27

Minnesota.—The third annual meeting of the Southern Minnesota Bee-Keepers Association will be held in Winona, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 15 and 16, 1897, opening at 9 o'clock, a.m., each day. All are cordially invited to come and bring their friends.

Winona, Minn. E. C. CORNWELL, Sec.

nests and started in the supers, having it in all stages, a little capt, but not much, and some had cases of 27 sections to the case nearly all filled with honey, but they didn't get any honey to finish them. They have only made their living for the last three weeks, with plenty of white clover and Alsike. I would not be surprised to see them taking the uncapt honey down to the brood-nest, but I suppose we must live in hopes of better times coming.

JOHN TURNBULL.
Houston Co., Minn., Aug. 4.

Bee-Keeping in West Virginia.

The season here has been wet and not very favorable. Spring count I had six colonies, which I have increased to 15. White clover has been very plentiful. From three colonies I have taken 85 one-pound sections of honey and sold them in the home market for \$12.75. My bees are the Adel strain. I regard them as the best and hardest I have ever had. Success to the American Bee Journal.

S. F. SAMPSON.
Greenbrier Co., W. Va., July 30.

Doctor's Hints

By Dr. PEIRO,

Central Music Hall, * CHICAGO, ILL.

Graceful Figure.—The nearer woman follows in the steps of Nature the most perfect will be her form and health. Tight lacing not only deforms an attractive body, but engenders conditions from which arise some of woman's most painful and fatal diseases. The better way to acquire a supple, willowy form and carriage is by daily, but gentle, physical exercises which can be learned from a variety of reliable textbooks on the subject, which can be bought of any reliable book-store. The rubber gymnastic tubes, bought for a dollar or two, are very good and will last years. A book of directions accompanies the purchase. Persist in well doing.

Soft, White Hands.—All girls (and plenty of the other sex) are anxious to have them, and it is perfectly proper they should. Of course, playing tunes on the wash-board, digging "taters" and raking hay is not likely to bleach the hands or make them soft, but even where such work must be done the hands can be kept in excellent condition with a little care. If on going to bed you put a handful of bran in warm water, and soak the hands for ten minutes, dry well and apply this ointment, well rubbed in, you will notice excellent results:

Mutton suet, camphor gum, and nitrate of bismuth; a teaspoonful of the last two ingredients to a pound of the suet, put in a cup and melt in a dish of hot water (not on the fire) and let cool. Rub a little of the ointment thoroughly over the hands (no damage from its use), then put on an old pair of kid gloves and remove them in the morning, briskly rubbing the hands before washing them in warm water and thoroughly drying. This should be done daily to keep the hands pliant and soft. In time the skin becomes like velvet, imparting a

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a delightful touch in shaking hands. Hence, you see, you can be very industrious and attractive, too.

The same pomade is as good for the face, if used as directed for the hands.

Postage Stamps.—If you do not receive a reply to your questions, when you write, you can know it is because you have not been thoughtful enough to at least enclose a stamp or two for return postage. The Doctor gives advice to the readers of the American Bee Journal, for which his usual fee in his office is never less than a couple of dollars, and if you are not willing to at least pay return postage, you need not expect a reply.

This is a common civility that you should never forget, when writing to any one, for information. It is these little proprieties that distinguish the well-bred from the careless and indifferent.

Artichokes.—I have been asked regarding them, whether they are poisonous or fit as food. I am pleased to assure every reader of the American Bee Journal that artichokes are delicious and extremely easy of cultivation. They have a finer grain and flavor than potatoes, are more digestible and quite prolific. They possess the great advantage—like the parsnip they somewhat resemble in taste—of improving in the ground over winter, and at their best when dug in the spring. But you can begin eating them in the fall. They should be boiled and served hot, like creamed potatoes. Every farmer or gardener should raise a quantity for family use. Their growth somewhat resembles that of the sunflower, tho not so large. It is the tubers, or roots, that are the edible part. Plant some, by all means.

Don't Spice the Children.—No, Mrs. Sinclair, it is unadvisable to allow children stimulating substances in their food—red pepper, mustard, or even considerable nutmeg and ginger. They are not only injurious to digestion, but too exciting to their tender nervous systems. These strong stimulants have, no doubt, been responsible for much evil, and should be avoided. DR. PEIRO.

Queens and Queen-Rearing.—If you want to know how to have queens fertilized in upper stories while the old queen is still laying below; how you may safely introduce any queen, at any time of the year when bees can fly; all about the different races of bees; all about shipping queens, queen-cages, candy for queen-cages, etc.; all about forming nuclei, multiplying or uniting bees, or weak colonies, etc.; or, in fact, everything about the queen-business which you may want to know—send for Doolittle's "Scientific Queen-Rearing"—a book of over 170 pages, which is as interesting as a story. Here are some good offers of this book:

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Illinois.—The annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at the Court House in Freeport, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 1897. All are cordially invited. B. KENNEDY, Sec.

New Milford, Ill.

Bee-Keeper's Guide—see page 512.

HONEY and BEESWAX MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Chicago, Ill., July 30.—Some few lots of the new crop of white comb has come on the market and sold at 12c. Lots not strictly nice may fail to bring this figure. Very little sale for extracted honey of any kind. Prices range from 5@6c. for white, 4@5c. for amber, and dark 3@4c. Beeswax steady at 26@27c.

Cincinnati, Ohio, July 30.—There is a fair demand for extracted and comb honey. We have disposed already of a number of arrivals of fine quality. We quote 1@1@13c. as the range for choice comb honey; 3@4@6c. for extracted. Demand is fair for beeswax at 22@25c. for good to choice yellow.

Boston, Mass., July 26.—Fancy new comb, in cartons, 14c.; No. 1, in cartons, 12 to 13c. Extracted, white, 6 to 7c.; light amber, 5 to 5@6c.

Our market is well cleaned up on old honey, and new is coming slowly. The demand is light.

Milwaukee, Wis., July 26.—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 8 to 10c.; No. 1, 7 to 8c.; fancy dark, 7 to 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 4@5c. Beeswax, 25 to 27c.

The remnants of old crop honey remaining are not very large, and mostly of common and medium quality, and such is very hard to sell at any price. There has been some new extracted received, but not of the BEST quality—think it was extracted too soon, as it is thin and watery, and not very salable. The demand is as good as usual at this season. Think we are safe in holding out encouragement to shippers that for the new crop of choice qualities of comb and extracted honey this market will give them as good results as any other.

Philadelphia, Pa., July 27.—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c.; dark, 4c. Beeswax, 25c.

New honey, both comb and extracted, is arriving in small quantities. Good authority places California crop at 300 cars. Prices will rule low, California honey selling at 3@4c. for mixt cars of light and amber extracted.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 26.—Fancy white, new, 11 to 12c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 8 to 9c.; No. 1, 7 to 8c.; No. 1, dark, 6 to 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c. Beeswax, 24 to 27c.

Few arrivals; new selling fairly well. Old is cleaned up, and moderate amounts of new can now be sold. Ship in crates of, say, 150 pounds, with handles on same, and well secured.

Cleveland, Ohio, July 24.—Fancy white, 11 to 12c.; No. 1, 10c.; fancy amber, 7c.; fancy dark, 6c.

Our first shipment of new honey just arrived, and selling at 13c. No demand for old honey, but new, we believe, is going to sell fairly well.

St. Louis, Mo., July 27.—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 11 to 11@12c.; No. 1 amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1 dark, 6 to 8c. Extracted, white, 4@5c. to 5@6c.; amber, 4 to 4@5c. Beeswax, 24 to 24@25c.

Extracted honey in barrels has been selling fairly well for two weeks. We sold 4,500 pounds of amber last week at 4@5c.

Indianapolis, Ind., July 24.—Fancy white 10 to 12c.; No. 1, 9 to 10c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c. Beeswax, 25 to 27c.

Fair demand in the jobbing way for grades mentioned above. No demand at all for dark or amber comb honey.

Kansas City, Mo., July 26.—No. 1 white, 12 to 13c.; fancy amber, 11 to 12c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy dark, 9 to 10c.; No. 1, 6 to 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 5@6c.; amber, 4 to 5c.; dark, 3@4c. Beeswax, 25 to 30c.

San Francisco, Calif., July 28.—White comb, 1-lbs., 7 to 9c.; amber comb, 4 to 6c. Extracted, white, 4@5c. to 5c.; light amber, 3@4c. to 4c.; dark tulle, 2@3c. Beeswax, fair to choice, 25@26c.

There is some inquiry, but no special activity to record, it being difficult to get buyers and sellers to agree on terms. Shippers are not disposed to name over 4@5c. for extracted, and they want a fine article at that figure. In a local way slightly better prices are realized, but demand on home account is of slight order.

New York, N. Y., July 29.—Our market is bare of comb honey, and some demand for white at from 10-11c. Market on extracted is rather weak; demand slow of late, and arrivals plenty. We quote: Southern average common grade, 50c. per gallon; better grades from 55-60c. California light amber, 4@4@5c.; white, 5-5@6c. Beeswax remains steady at 26-27c.

Detroit, Mich., July 31.—Fancy white, 11-12c.; No. 1 white, 10-11c.; fancy amber, 9-10c.; No. 1 amber, 8-9c. White, extracted, 5-6c.; amber, 4-5c. Beeswax, 25-26c.

Honey is not selling very brisk just now on account of the fruit.

Albany, N. Y., July 31.—Fancy white, 11@12c.; fancy amber, 7@8c.; fancy dark, 6@8c.; white, extracted, 5c.; dark, 4c.

But very little is doing in honey this month. There is a small stock of inferior comb honey on the market, and quite a little extracted. Bees are said to be doing nicely in this section.

Minneapolis, Minn., July 31.—Fancy white, 12@14c.; No. 1 white, 11@12c.; fancy amber, 10@11c.; No. 1 amber, 9@10c.; fancy dark, 8@9c.; No. 1 dark, 7@8c. Extracted, white, 6@7c.; amber, 5@6c.; dark, 4@5c. Beeswax, 24@27c.

Demand for extracted honey is nominal, but at fair prices. Comb very slow on account of warm weather.

List of Honey and Beeswax Dealers.

Most of whom Quote in this Journal.

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Buffalo, N. Y.
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Philadelphia, Pa.
WM. A. SELSER, 10 Vine St.

Cleveland, Ohio.
A. B. WILLIAMS & CO., 80 & 82 Broadway.

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WESTCOTT COM. CO., 213 Market St.

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S. H. HALL & CO.

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BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE, 57 Chatham Street.

Detroit, Mich.
M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Wayne Co., Mich.

Indianapolis, Ind.

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5 " " Queens... 3.50
1 select tested Queen 2.00
3 " " Queens 4.00

Select tested queen, previous season's rearing . 4.00
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About a Pound of BEES in a Two-frame Nucleus,
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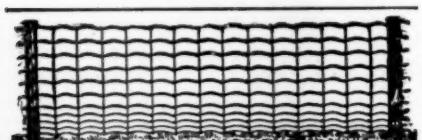
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One, 75c.; 2, \$1.40;
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Safe arrival and satisfaction guaranteed.

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500 for	\$1.25
1000 for	2.50
2000 for	4.75
3000 for	6.75

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Price-List of Sections, Foundations, Veils, Smokers, Zinc, Etc.,
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